(b) whether it is a fact that 4.25 lakhs syringes are discarded by the city hospitals in the capital daily and only 30-40 per cent are incinerated or destroyed and the rest come back to circulation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government against those hospitals that are not following the rules of bio-medical waste management?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, such information is not centrally maintained. The State Pollution Control Board in respect of States and Pollution Control Committee in respect of UTs are the prescribed authorities to implement and enforce Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and amendments thereof.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi and Lady Harding Medical College and Shrimati S.K. Hospital, New Delhi are concerned, the Bio Medical Waste including syringes are disposed as per the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998.

Post-graduate courses in medical colleges

3122. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is very difficult to join post-graduate courses such as MS/MD after MBBS;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken including opening/starting of more postgraduate courses in medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India, at present approximately 23000 students pass out in various medical colleges across the country for whom approximately 11600 (*i.e.* more than 50%) seats are available in different PG courses. Further, the National Board of Examination has already provided educational facilities in various DNB courses of which nearly 5000 are available annually as per the information provided by the National Board. Thus, postgraduate facilities are available for nearly 70% of student passing out as MBBS through out the country.

(c) Medical Council of India regulations are being amended to rationalise, student-teacher ratio, to increase the number of doctors. This Ministry has proposed to set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been

constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

Shortage of doctors

3123. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether country is short by six lakh doctors, 10 lakh nurses and 2 lakh dental surgeons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such shortages; and

(d) the steps initiated to recruit the staff according to the country's requirement especially in Andhra Pradesh by giving them sops in rural and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India, the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 7,33,617. Currently, there are 299 medical colleges in the country for teaching modern system of medicine with annual intake of 35, 152 who add up to the existing medical manpower. Further, there are 24,893 dental surgeons in India. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to poor and the vulnerable section of the population. Medical Council of India regulations are being amended to rationalise land requirement, student-teacher ratio, allowing public-private partnership which will facilitate setting up of more medical colleges and increase the number of doctors. This Ministry has proposed to, set up a National Council for Human Resources in Health as an overarching regulatory body for the health sector to reform the current regulatory framework and enhance supply of skilled personnel. A Task Force under the chairmanship of Union Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) has been constituted to deliberate upon the issue of setting up the proposed National Council. The Task Force shall submit its report to the Ministry by 31st July, 2009.

As per the Bajaj Committee recommendations of nursing staffing norms for Hospital and community/services, 10.43 lakhs nurses would be required by 2012. With the existing training capacity 6.84 lakhs nurses are expected to be trained by 2012.

Free medical services

3124. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expenditure incurred by poor population to meet their medical needs amount to about 42 per cent of GDP;